The Desert Whispers
from Johnson Valley

VOL. 2, NO. 5 | THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA | JANUARY 25, 1969

RESCUE UNIT TO MEET

The Johnson Valley Search and Rescue group will meet at 6 p.m., Feb. 8, at the home of Earl and Bea Roush.

An open invitation is extended to those interested in the aims and efforts of the organization.

Members have voted to purchase a master first aid kit and two warning flasher lights. In the past, drivers at the scene of an accident have not slowed down when approaching. It is hoped that the rotating red light will be more effective.

The proposed purchase of a fire truck has been dropped for the time being, it was reported.

Present at the January meeting were Roger Stevens and a friend from Huntington Beach, who were impressed by the work of the group. Although not local property owners, both donated to the treasury, and Stevens contributed a blanket.

Other donations include blankets contributed by Bea Roush, Golda Gunning and Ona Lamb.

The rescue group is seeking more community support and will meet at the members' homes in the future. Local residents are urged to attend.

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SERVICES CAN BE ARRANGED

For some time, Catholic services have not been held in the east section of Saint Paul parish, which extends six miles to the east of the Chisel Inn. The Catholic population is not large enough for a weekly or monthly Mass, according to Father Scanlan, pastor of St. Paul's. But a Mass can be said on special occasions, such as a golden or silver jubilee, an outstanding family reunion, or a special event that brings people together.

On any of such occasions, Father Scanlan will willingly oblige with a service in accord with the event, he announced.

When prayers are over, refreshments will be in order, such as was offered when services were held at the home of Sarge and Marie Stanley, Father Scanlan explained.

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BOX SOCIAL SCHEDULED

A progress report on the new water system will be given at the February 1 meeting of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association.

Walter Remy, Bighorn Rural Water Association president, will bring his audience up to date on facts and figures according to revised estimates. More information is given on page three of the Desert Whispers.

Visitors are always welcome, according to Alex Chernoff, JVI Assn. president.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., following the box social. Auctioning of box lunches begins at 5:30 p.m., with Clarence Estes serving as auctioneer. Proceeds will be used for construction of a kitchen, and for the general fund.

Association membership dues for 1969 will be accepted at the meeting, or may be mailed in.

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NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

by Aileen DeVictoria

The Desert Ears C.B. Club installed the 1969 officers and the board of directors on Jan. 12. Ray Currie presided as installation officer.

New president is Bob Forester; vice president, Cecil McGee; secretary, Bea Roush; treasurer, Ruby Piner.

Directors are Sarge Stanley, one year; Eva Hibbard, two-year; Anne Hawley, three year.

The outgoing officers receiving a club pin with bar designating name and office were Burt Campbell, president; Deane Piner, vice president; Anne Hawley, treasurer, and Ruby Piner, secretary.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Jan 31 at 8 p.m., at the home of Earl and Bea Roush.

The next regular meeting will be held in the Landers Association building on Feb. 9 at 1 p.m.

*

St. Paul's Guild has elected the 1969 officers, with Mrs. Lois Bonin serving as president.

Mrs. Ruby Piner is vice president; Mrs. Jo Ruges, treasurer; Mrs. Florence Pinard, secretary.

(continued on page four)

MORE SATISFACTORY COMMUNICATIONS SOUGHT

Efforts are being made to obtain a better system for communications, by radio or telephone installation, for Johnson Valley. A group of residents was scheduled to meet with a representative of Civil Defense for ideas and suggestions.

Increased traffic, resulting in more traffic accidents, calls for a method of reaching the sheriff, Elmer Jacobs pointed out. According to the Graphic News for October, 1967, the State Division of Highways reported 5,040 northbound and 4,420 southbound vehicles on the Old Woman Springs Road on the Labor Day weekend. Obviously this has increased, Jacobs said, in spearheading a move for a more satisfactory way to reach the sheriff, an ambulance or a doctor in an emergency.

* * * * *

WHISPERS AND SHOUTS

Busy hosts during the holidays were the A.M. Wallers. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Terry McIlwain and their three children. Mrs. McIlwain is their granddaughter. Grandson Kenneth Tomlin brought his fiancee. Also son Donovan Jack drove out in his new Porsche. Later in the month, dinner guests were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Krohn and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Estes.

*

GOLDEN WEDDING FOR SMITHS

Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Smith, Sr., observed their Golden Wedding on Dec. 31, with two affairs hosted by their children.

Johnson Valley residents gathered at the Smith home on Dec. 28 to honor the couple.

Others met at the Jerold Smith home in Paramount on Dec. 29.

Expressing appreciation for the rich heritage, instruction and example of their parents were Dennis and Adele Zuercher; Albert Jr., and Marjorie (Blankenburg) Smith; Elven and Joyce Smith; Lyle and Wanda Blew; Dick and Thelma Bradley; Jerry and Evelyn (Castle) Smith; and Ed and Joy (Woodward) Smith.

*

SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Burt Campbell is still under a doctor's care for injuries suffered in a car accident. He was back in the hospital for treatment last week.

*

Bus and Ona Lamb are on the mend after jousting with the flu.

*

Mrs. Lizzie Farris has been visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Gael and Auline Farris. She is from Pernell, Oklahoma, but loves the desert.

*

Guests of Carl and Betty Krohn for a between the holidays dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Waller, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Estes and Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Tomlin. Flu kept six other invited guests home, who missed the desert blanketed in snow.

*

Mrs. Lucy Estes, mother of Clarence, has taken up residence in the Masonic Home in Union City. Her many friends who met her while she made her home with Flossie and Clarence, may wish to send her a card or Valentine. She can be reached care of Masonic Home, P.O.Box 754, Union City, Calif. 94587.

*

The Estes had a houseful of guests early this month. Visitors included Clarence's niece, Mrs. James Bailey and children, James Jr., Grant and LuAnn, and a little neighbor, Vickie, all from San Jose. The youngsters enjoyed the freedom of wide open spaces on their first trip to a desert.

Also visiting was Ben Bailey, a 10-year veteran of the U.S. Army, with the last three years in Vietnam. He has received a medical discharge from the army.

Mrs. Ethel Vincent, Clarence's sister, from Denver, also visited for four days.

*

Our sympathy to Nancy Dumond, whose great-grandmother, Mrs. Alta Reed, died last week in Los Angeles, at the age of 98 years.

*

There were almost 100 members and guests at the January dime-a-dip sponsored by the Johnson Valley Improvement Assn. Mrs. Gus Valentine was chairman of the event, assisted by Mrs. Dan Jarvis. Leo's Market supplied a part of the groceries at a ten percent discount.

*

Bea Van Buren was hospitalized last week for surgery at the San Antonio Community Hospital. We hope she is home by now, but if not, cards can reach her in room 120A, 999 San Bernardino Rd., Upland.

*

Enjoying a White Christmas in the desert with Alex and Grace White were Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Hoover and sons, from Boulder, Colorado. All returned to Santa Ana for the remainder of the holidays.

Local Water District Tells Good News

It appears possible that Johnson Valley will have its own piped water before long, according to the directors of the Bighorn Rural Water Association.

The optimistic view of formation of the district was given to members at the January meeting of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association by Walter Remy, president of the water association.

Remy showed maps of the proposed installations for the area covering Landers, Homestead Valley, and Johnson Valley.

The system calls for water piped from user to user, with no one obligated to join the district if he does not wish his property to be included.

Preliminary estimates place the cost of installation and monthly charges below the first estimates, Remy said.

He will make a more complete report at the February 1 meeting of the JVIA.

The proposal is being studied by the various government agencies concerned. If approved, the Farm and Home Administration will make a 40-year loan of 90 per cent of the costs.

Revised Estimates

The water user will pay for water piped to his property line, and for installation of the meter, and a monthly charge to repay the loan and for water. Original estimates were $300 for installation. Remy will present the revised estimates Saturday.

Applications will still be accepted, Remy said. The fee of $25 will be applied toward the installation charge.

Costs of the preliminary work have been kept to a minimum because members of the board and other volunteers are donating their services. Pertinent information from a previous survey for a proposed county water district was also presented to the Bighorn Association.

Those who join the district later may be required to pay higher costs on an individual basis. A local board of directors will be elected by the shareholders and will administer the affairs of the district.

Applications Still Acceptable

Application and the $25 fee may be sent to the Bighorn Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 3121, Landers, Calif., 92284, or may be given to any of the section workers.

Undeveloped property can be included in the district, and the owner will pay the standby charge, whether or not water is used. Whether the standby charge will offset increased installation costs will depend on location of the property and how soon it is developed.

It is anticipated that Remy will provide the necessary information at the February meeting so that property owners still undecided can make a determination.

The business meeting of the JVIA on Saturday, Feb 1, at 7:30 p.m., will be preceded by a box social at 5:30, but members and guests are invited to attend either one, or both, events. Guests are always welcome, according to Alex Chernoff, president of the JVIA.

"Advice is what the old give the young when they can no longer set them a bad example."

—Irvin Cobb

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Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Patrick J. Scanlan, Pastor

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Off Old Woman Springs Road at the New Dixie Mine Road in Landers, Calif.

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Star Route 2, Box 754
Yucca Valley, California 92284

THE DESERT WHISPERS FROM JOHNSON VALLEY is published the last Saturday of the month in Timico Acres, Johnson Valley. Mailing address: The Desert Whispers, Star Route 2, Box 804, Yucca Valley, California 92284. Subscriptions are $2 a year for twelve issues. Individual copies are 15 cents each.

Executive Editor ..... MARTHA W. COUTANT
Associate Editor ..... MARIE STANLEY
Contributing Editor ..... AILEEN DE VICTORIA
Managing Editor ..... STANLEY O. COUTANT

VOL. 2, NO. 5 JANUARY 25, 1969

St. Paul's Guild meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory.

Retiring officers are Mrs. Ruges, president; Mrs. Lugo, vice president; Mrs. Benson, treasurer; Mrs. Piner, secretary.

A Dime-A-Dip is scheduled the third Saturday of every month in the Parrish Hall. All are welcome.

*

Welcome to new permanent residents: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lucia. Much happiness and contentment in your new home.

*

The Drabaughs are entertaining Virgil's brother and his wife from Oakland. A fishing trip to Mexico was among the scheduled events.

*

Ancel Cole is at the home of his daughter to recuperate from a set-back. Ancel and Pearl were observing Christmas when he was stricken and was immediately hospitalized. We miss you, Coley.

*

Marie Stanley was the proud Godmother to her great-great grandchild on Jan. 12.

Marie has also surprised everyone with her prowress at pool since joining in games on Ladies' Day at the Chisel Inn.

*

Bill Holmes suffered four cracked ribs and a pulled back muscle when his car hit ice and flipped on Old Woman Springs Road the day after the snow storm. Bill walked three miles to his home in zero temperatures. Friends observing the wrecked truck were amazed at his escape.

*

Thelma Moore celebrated her birthday on Jan. 4 at the Chisel Inn. Many happy returns, Thelma.

*

The teen age population is apparently growing fast, according to the number joining their parents for the New Years Eve party at the Chisel Inn. They almost outnumbered the adults.

*

DOGGY NOTES

A dachsund belonging to Pat and Dick Reeley disappeared the weekend of Jan. 18. Anyone seeing the dog is requested to contact any resident of Johnson Valley.

A beautiful Border Collie wandered into the DeVictoria's yard. Through its dog tag its owners were located in Montclair. The dog had been missing since Nov. 10, according to its overjoyed owners at the reunion. -- A. DeV.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

THE OLD HORNED TOAD

The Old Horned Toad is way back in a corner under the rock - sulking. Last month we worked like big fat beavers to give our readers a look into the future at a printed Desert Whispers without any wobbly lines or patched errors. The reaction was not favorable. WHY?

*

Walt Remy is not one who says "let George do it." He has spent hundreds of hours helping to launch the new Bighorn Rural Water Association.

While rushing about on association business recently, he stopped to risk his life to save an injured dog from the middle of the highway while others drove by. Walt took the dog to a vet for treatment, and then found someone who could take care of the animal, before he proceeded on his way.

Not everyone takes time to bother with the little things. (He didn't tell us about it. A friend who was there did.)

Remy and his board of directors are putting in hours getting the water system on its way, without salary. The same work done by professionals would cost the property owner quite a bundle.

*

We were privileged to attend the recognition dinner for Assistant Chief William S. Orr, honoring him on his retirement after 38 years with the Arcadia Police Department. Included in the telegrams of commendation for his great work in investigation were two from J. Edgar Hoover and L.A. County Sheriff Peter J. Pitches. There were also laudatory words from his boss, Chief Robert S. Seares and Arcadia Mayor Donald Hage. Bill served twice as chief of police during Arcadia's tumultuous years when job security was not guaranteed.

*

Insufferable braggart department: American Girl bought a story by the Old Horned Toad this month.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

High above the Chisholm Trail
The coyote howls his lonesome wail.
The cowpoke adds his wailing note,
But the coy coyote gets my vote.

--T. B. Thomson

* * * * * *

PRESSMAN wanted. Exlnt. full time pos. Should know Miehle Horiz., Vert., and Heidelberg platen. Call Mr. van der Veen at (213) 795-6961, ext. 250.

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NATURE NOTES

The road runner is a member of the cuckoo family. Two toes on each foot are directed forward and the other two, backward, so the tracks on the desert sand can easily be identified. All other bird tracks on the sand show three toes forward and one backward on each foot. They cover a lot of territory, running across the sands looking for lizards and snakes for food. They seldom fly for more than the distance of a short jump. These striking personalities of the desert prefer to build their nests in cholla. --from "Southwest Desert Wonderland" by Norman Hammond Wakeman

The Johnson Valley Improvement Association

is sponsoring a

BOX SOCIAL

to be held

SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1, 1969

JOHNSON VALLEY COMMUNITY HALL
ON LARREA ROAD

Ladies should prepare a box lunch for two and decorate the box with a St. Valentine's Day motif. The lunches will be auctioned off with a prize awarded to the lady whose lunch brings the highest bid. Names should appear inside each box on a slip of paper. A $5 bill will be hidden in one of the box lunches, so come over and try your luck!

Coffee and soft drinks available

Auctioning will begin promptly at 5:30

Everyone welcome

NOW IS THE TIME to renew your membership in the Johnson Valley Improvement Association (formerly the Grandview Improvement Association).

Annual Dues—$2.50 per person

Send to:

Johnson Valley Improvement Association, Inc.
Star Route 2, Box 754
Yucca Valley, California 92284

Help support orderly growth in Johnson Valley. Join your neighbors for business meetings and social gatherings in the Community Hall. Regular events have included dinners, bazaars, rummage sales, box socials, and dime-a-dips. More coming up. Next project is construction of a kitchen. The Association meets the first Saturday of each month in the Hall on Larrea Road at 7:30 p.m. —Alex Chernoff, President

Subscribe to your local newspaper. *The Desert Whispers*, $2 a year. Published the last Saturday of the month. Star Route 2, Box 804, Yucca Valley 92284.

PLEASE NOTE!

There will be a meeting of the officers and the board of directors of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association at 1 p.m., Feb. 1, in the Community Hall. Please attend. Alex Chernoff, president JVIA.

WATER ASSOCIATION FUNDS

The public letters mailed to the participating property owners regarding the transfer or refund of the remaining funds of the terminated Proposed Johnson Valley County Water District have been given sufficient time to reach every member and be answered in good faith as requested. Therefore, this matter will be brought before the Feb. 1 meeting of Johnson Valley Improvement Association, Inc., for final action.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On April 5 new officers for the Johnson Valley Improvement Association will be nominated and elected. Please give this serious thought, make your decision and act accordingly. Attend the meeting and vote for the candidates of your choice. It is to your benefit to take an interest in the affairs of the Association.

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